

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

INFORMATION

May 13, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: Cuban Exile Attack on Cuban Fishing Boats

The Cuban Government broadcast a communique 12 May announcing the sinking of two Cuban fishing boats by Cuban exiles and the kidnapping of the crew members (this is the incident referred to in my memo of May 12.) The communique said that Cuba would hold the US responsible for the lives of the 11 crewmen. (Note marked passage.)

On 12 May President Dorticos summoned the Swiss Ambassador, who represents our interests in Cuba, and gave him a note of protest. The note repeated much of the terms of the communique, and said they would hold the US responsible for the crewmen's lives. It charged us with awareness of the operation and permitting it to occur. (Alpha-66 operates out of Miami.)

The British Ambassador, according to a FBIS report, was also summoned. Reportedly the crews are being held on an island in the Bahamas.

Since the exiles do operate out of US territory, and since the kind of activities they are engaged in, such as sinking another nation's boats, infiltration raids, etc., violates both US law and accepted norms of international law, we cannot escape getting at least accused if not involved. As my previous memos have pointed out, this kind of incident can provoke or provide an excuse for retaliation against us.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI/CDF Pages 2-4 per C05138710

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

VPVaky:jrr 5-13-70

FBIS 39

FIRST ADD 37 (CASTRO COMMUNIQUE)

XXX TO OUR POPULACE.

(TEXT) EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THESE CRIMES AND VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR THE PURPOSE OF HARASSING AND ATTACKING OUR COUNTRY, DISREGARDING FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW AMONG PEOPLES AND RESPECT FOR UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED NORMS, INVARIABLY HAVE BACKFIRED ON THEIR PERPETRATORS AND INSTIGATORS.

THE UNITED STATES ORGANIZED AND OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED (OFICIALIZO) THE SYSTEMATIC SUBVERSION OF OUR COUNTRY, HIJACKING OF CUBAN PLANES AND VESSELS, MERCENARY INVASIONS LIKE THE ONE AT GIRON, AND SUBSEQUENT PIRATE ATTACKS USING BASES IN CENTRAL AMERICAN NATIONS AND IN THE UNITED STATES ITSELF, DIRECTED BY THE CIA. THIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PROMOTERS OF THESE DEEDS. THE UNITED STATES FED AND TRAINED MEN WHO THINK THEY ARE EVEN ABOVE THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHAT VALUE CAN BE PUT ON STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT ALL NECESSARY STEPS TAKEN TO HAVE THE LAW RESPECTED? THE SAME U.S. AUTHORITIES PAVED THE WAY FOR VIOLATIONS, AND THEY CONSTANTLY PERPETRATE THEM AGAINST OUR COUNTRY. SUCH ACTIONS HAVE BEEN OCCURRING FOR 10 YEARS, AND ALWAYS THE SAME STATEMENTS ARE RELEASED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WHEN THESE EVENTS ARE SO REPUGNANT THAT THEY MIGHT BE AN AFFRONT TO WORLD OPINION.

CIA AND FBI AGENTS CONSTANTLY VISIT CAMPS WHERE THESE MERCENARIES TRAIN, -::94\$8,& TO STATEMENTS MADE BY THOSE CAPTURED AT BARACOA. THEY CANNOT DENY THAT THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF THESE VIOLATIONS OF U.S. LAWS. NOW, PUBLICLY AND WITHOUT ANY QUALMS, THERE IS TALK ABOUT PREPARING FOR WAR AGAINST OUR NATION, AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CANNOT DENY THAT IT IS SERIOUSLY IMPLICATED IN SUCH PLANS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT DOES NOT RESOLVE THE MAIN ISSUE, WHICH IS THE SECURITY AND SAFETY OF THE KIDNAPED FISHERMEN.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CANNOT EVADE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE ACTIONS, WHICH ARE ORGANIZED CARRIED OUT FROM U.S. TERRITORY WITH U.S. WEAPONS AND VESSELS REGISTERED AND BASED IN FLORIDA IN PLAIN SIGHT OF THE AUTHORITIES; AND LATER THEY ARE CYNICALLY ANNOUNCED FROM MIAMI, WHERE THESE ORGANIZATIONS, ITS LEADERS, AND THE CRIMINALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THESE CRIMES RESIDE.

(MORE)

FBIS 40

SECOND AND LAST ADD 37 (CASTRO COMMUNIQUE)

X X X THESE CRIMES RESIDE.

(TEXT) PRESIDENT DORTICOS TODAY HAS CALLED IN THE SWISS AMBASSADOR, WHO REPRESENTS U.S. INTERESTS IN CUBA, TO TELL HIM THAT CUBAN GOVERNMENT HOLDS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIVES OF THE FISHERMEN, AND DEMANDS THEIR IMMEDIATE RETURN TO CUBA, AS WELL AS A HALT TO SUCH ACTS FROM U.S. TERRITORY. SINCE THE CIA MANY TIMES HAS USED THE KEYS AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS NORTH OF CUBA AS BASE FOR THESE ACTIONS, THE PRESIDENT HAS ALSO CALLED IN THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO REQUEST THAT HIS GOVERNMENT TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO INSURE THAT AGGRESSIONS AGAINST OUR PEOPLE ARE NOT CARRIED OUT FROM BRITISH TERRITORY, OR THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO STOP THEM WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES.

THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WILL FLATLY REJECT ALL TYPES OF BLACKMAIL FROM THE CIA AND ITS AGENTS WHICH MIGHT BE ATTEMPTED BY HOLDING CUBAN FISHERMEN AS HOSTAGES. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT KNOWS PERFECTLY WELL WHERE THE FISHERMEN ARE, WHO HAS THEM, AND HOW THEY CARRIED OUT THE ACTION IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF U.S. LAWS. THUS, IT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEASURES TAKEN BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IF THE FISHERMEN ARE MURDERED.

OUR PEOPLE MUST VIEW THESE INCIDENTS AS PART OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE MUST FACE AS A RESULT OF IMPERIALIST ACTIONS AGAINST OUR COUNTRY, AND BE PREPARED TO DO BATTLE AGAINST THEM. THE GIGANTIC TASKS FACING US IN THE STRUGGLE FOR DEVELOPING THE NATION WILL HAVE TO BE SHARED ONCE MORE WITH THE DEFENSE OF OUR PEOPLE'S INTERESTS. THE FACT THAT OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO THE TASK OF BUILDING THEIR FUTURE WITH SWEAT AND SACRIFICES WILL NOT MAKE THEM HESITATE FOR AN INSTANT IF WE ARE FORCED TO MADE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION THE MAIN GOAL IN OUR EFFORTS, AS HAS BEEN DONE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

THOSE WHO HARBOR THE SLIGHTEST HOPE THAT NIXON'S AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN POLICIES COULD BRING CAPITALIST AND IMPERIALIST SLAVERY BACK TO OUR COUNTRY, SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THE REVOLUTION WILL BE STRONG, FIRM, AND INFLEXIBLE WITH ITS ENEMIES. IF IMPERIALISM ATTEMPTS NEW ADVENTURES AGAINST CUBA SUCH AS INVASIONS, IT WILL MEET OUR PEOPLE'S IRON FIST AND UNRELENTING RESOLUTION--AS IN ALL GLORIOUS MOMENTS IN OUR HISTORY--TO WIN OR DIE IN DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION AND FATHERLAND. (SIGNED) FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, PRIME MINISTER OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, 12 MAY 1970.

(ENDALL)

13 MAY 1420Z PU/TM

(TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE BY CUBAN PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO ON THE SINKING OF TWO CUBAN FISHING BOATS AND ACCUSATION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES--READ BY ANNOUNCER)

(TEXT) THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF CUBA, MAJ FIDEL CASTRO RUZ, HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE ON THE SINKING OF TWO FISHING BOATS AND THE KIDNAPPING OF THE CREW MEMBERS BY AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM:

TWO CUBAN FISHING BOATS WITH 11 CREWMEMBERS ABOARD BELONGING TO THE CAIBAIRIEN FISHING COOPERATIVE WHICH WERE DUE BACK ON 10 MAY STILL HAD NOT ARRIVED AT PORT LAST NIGHT.

TODAY, 12 MAY, A TANKEE RADIO STATION IN MIAMI BROADCAST AN ALLEGED WAR BULLETIN ISSUED FROM A SO-CALLED NAVAL BASE OF COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS WHICH SAID : "AN ARMED LAUNCH MANNED BY ATTACK FORCES OF THE ALPHA 66 MOVEMENT ON 10 MAY BOARDED, SEARCHED, AND TOOK PRISONER 11 CREWMEMBERS OF THE CASTRO-COMMUNIST VESSELS PLATAFORMA 1 AND PLATAFORMA 4, 65-FOOT, --69 LARGO-TYPE VESSELS WITH A 37-TON CARGO CAPACITY BELONGING TO THE CAIBARIEN FISHING COOPERATIVE. IT THEN DESTROYED AND SANK THE VESSELS. (SIGNED) ALPHA 66."

AS IS KNOWN, THIS ORGANIZATION WAS AMONG THOSE CREATED BY THE CIA SOME YEARS AGO AS A SCREEN TO COVER ITS PIRATE ATTACKS AGAINST CUBA. THE FISHING BOATS IN QUESTION WERE NOT EQUIPPED WITH RADIOS AND THE CAIBARIEN COOPERATIVE HAS NOT HEARD FROM THEM SINCE THEY DEPARTED. THEIR DELAY IN RETURNING TO PORT SUGGESTED SOME TROUBLE.

THIS CYNICAL STATEMENT MADE IN THE UNITED STATES TENDS TO REVEAL WHAT HAPPENED. IN ANY CASE, THE SUPPOSED PERPETRATORS OF SUCH A DASTARDLY ACTION ARE PROCLAIMING THE VILLAINOUS ACT AND ARE ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT. ON THE OTHER HAND, AN AFP DISPATCH DATED WASHINGTON, 12 MAY, SAYS: "THE UNITED STATES EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE NEWS FROM MIAMI THAT AN ANTI-CASTRO GROUP HAD SUNK TWO CUBAN FISHING BOATS AND WAS HOLDING ITS CREWMEMBERS AS HOSTAGES. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REMINDS EVERYONE THAT ITS LAWS PROHIBIT THE USE OF U.S. TERRITORY AS A MILITARY BASE AGAINST A FOREIGN NATION, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY. HE SAID THAT ALL NECESSARY MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO HAVE THESE LAWS RESPECTED."

SOME DAYS AGO, A GROUP OF MERCENARIES, WHO WERE TRAINED IN AND LEFT FROM FLORIDA WITH THE OBVIOUS COMPLICITY OF U.S. AUTHORITIES LANDED IN BARCOA TO UNLEASH BANDIT-TYPE ACTIVITIES TO HAMPER THE WORK OF OUR PEOPLE, WERE SWIFTLY LOCATED AND LIQUIDATED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES AT THE COST OF FIVE BRAVE DEFENDERS OF OUR PEOPLE. THE SAME GROUP WAS GIVEN AID AT THE GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE LAST JANUARY AND THEN RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM WHICH THEY AGAIN LEFT IN APRIL EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST MODERN WEAPONS.

THIS NEW CRIMINAL AND GRAVE ACTION, WHICH EXPLAINS THE VESSELS' DISAPPEARANCE, TAKES PLACE ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER THE OTHER ACTION, THIS TIME TAKING THE FORM OF A REPUGNANT AND COWARDLY ATTACK AGAINST TWO UNARMED FISHING BOATS AND THE CAPTURE OF 11 FISHERMEN AS HOSTAGES, FISHERMEN WHO, WITH THEIR HARD AND SELF-DENYING WORK SUPP